

Either way the administration or media try to spin it, a ransom was paid. For years and years, the United States Government has held a long-standing policy of not paying ransom for prisoners, but our legacy has quickly diminished.

The President continues to invest our trust and money into Iran, a country that is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. Why in the world is our President rewarding Iran for its bad behavior?

This cash transaction sets a dangerous precedent for Americans abroad and our national security. I won't stand for this type of deceit by our Commander-in-Chief. That is why I urge my colleagues to support and pass the Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act. The name of the bill says it all.

COMMEMORATING THE HISTORIC SEASON OF THE BALTIMORE ORACLES

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the historic season of the Baltimore Oracles, my staff's congressional softball team and the victors of the 2016 Congressional Softball League championship. I was going to bring the trophy down, but it is much too big and much too heavy to carry.

Mr. Speaker, the Oracles vanquished their opponents this season, achieving an astounding 19-1 record. Led by co-captains Peter Gelman and Katie Teleky, and shadow-captain Raymond O'Mara, the team was a perfect blend of stout defense and potent offense.

Mike Pulver, Anna Killius, Paul Kincaid, and Lucinda Lessley held down the infield, while Andy Allen, Max Frankel, Brian Kaissi, and Zach Weber roamed the outfield. Big bats littered the lineup, but the batters were always ready to oblige the team's heart and soul, Tim O'Neil, and hit just a single.

Other contributors integral to the team's success include Kate and Adrienne Star, Evan Horn, Jake Barr, Will Pisano, Julia Kandel-Krieger, James Howard, Becky O'Mara, Alex Bond, and Winston, the team's ever-chipper mascot.

Mr. Speaker, the Baltimore Oracles are champions, and that is truly world class.

IMPLEMENTING THE VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, more than a year ago, Congress passed and the President signed into law an overhaul of veterans' health care. The Vet-

erans Choice Program nominally gave our Nation's veterans more health provider and service options. However, despite having more than a year to implement it, local VA facilities are refusing to work with new providers to get veterans the care they need. The VA claims its hands are tied, but by what?

Through the Veterans Choice Program, the men and women who have served our country are entitled to vital home care services that are critical to follow-up care and medication adherence assistance, especially for disabled veterans and those without access to transportation.

My conversations with the VA have yielded only excuses. Our vets deserve results.

I ask again, how many veterans are waiting for physician visits? How can the VA sit on its hands while our Nation's veterans wait and suffer?

I ask my colleagues to join me. Let's be a voice for our veterans and demand the VA give these heroes access to and reimbursement for the care they need and deserve.

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PRESERVING CASTNER RANGE

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Antiquities Act, 100 years of our National Park Service, and to thank our current President and administration for doing more than any administration before them to strengthen these two assets that we have in our country.

But I also ask this administration to set the standard for the next 100 years to ensure that public places like Castner Range in El Paso, Texas, fully tell the national story of the first Americans who were here more than 8,000 years ago who left their impressions of this great land and to ensure that every American has the chance to enter our public lands like the fourth and fifth graders at Collins Elementary who, under the direction of Mrs. Guay, left their impressions of Castner Range. This is a class that is 93 percent Mexican American, 75 percent below the poverty line, and precisely the population that we want to see in our national lands and public parks going forward.

Preserving Castner Range forever is a means to set the stage for the next 100 years of success for our national parks and our national lands.

CELEBRATING UNC CHARLOTTE'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. HUDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the University

of North Carolina at Charlotte as we commemorate its 70th anniversary.

I am proud to be among the 122,000 living alumni of UNC Charlotte and to be the first elected to Congress, though I am sure I won't be the last.

My alma mater was founded by the visionary Bonnie Cone in the wake of the Second World War as a service to returning veterans pursuing higher education. The lasting legacy that continues to guide the university is best expressed in one word, "opportunity."

Opportunity characterizes the futures being built each day on campus. Opportunity describes the powerful economic impact this university has on one of the Nation's fastest growing regions. UNC Charlotte has grown into its distinctive role as a research university in areas like big data, energy, and cancer prevention, focused clearly on the opportunities and needs of the future.

Mr. Speaker, while still a relatively young university, UNC Charlotte is one of the leading American universities of the 21st century. I am pleased on behalf of the university family and all of Niner Nation to say the future is ours. Go Niners.

REMEMBERING JACQUI ELLIS

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the members of the Ninth Congressional District are in mourning this morning. We are saddened by the passing of our Chief of Staff, Ms. Jacqui Ellis. Mr. Speaker, she was more than a Chief of Staff. She was one of my dearest and closest friends. She was a mentor to many of the people on the Hill and especially those who worked with her in my congressional office.

She made a difference in the lives of people. She was there to be of assistance to those who needed help. And 1 minute will never give me enough time to express the love, the affection, and to thank all of the many people who have given their condolences and their sympathies, so we will have a Special Order next week at which Members of the House will be permitted to come to the floor, and we will make our comments then.

But I do want to say this: she met the measure of life that Ruth Smeltzer called to our attention:

Some measure their lives by days and years,
Others by heartthrobs, passions, and tears.
But the surest measure under God's sun
Is what in your lifetime for others you've done.

Jacqui, we love you, and we thank you for what you have done for others in your lifetime. We know that while physically you are not with us, spiritually you will always be with us. God bless you.

HELP PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, Colorado is home to over 400,000 of our Nation's veterans—men and women who have fought to protect our freedom in conflicts around the world. These men and women are often some of the most respected individuals in our communities, which makes it easy to overlook that they may be struggling to transition back into civilian life at the end of their service.

A study from the Department of Veterans Affairs found that 22 veterans tragically end their lives by suicide each day. This is a shocking and heart-breaking statistic.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and a time when everyone can learn about helping to prevent veteran suicide. In our communities, we can all work to make sure that no veteran ever feels like suicide is their only option. I am honored to represent a district that works so hard to make sure our veterans are taken care of when they return home, and I am committed to advancing policies to ensure that we honor and serve the men and women who have so honorably served our country.

The next time you run into a veteran in the community, take a minute to let them know that you appreciate their service. None of us may ever know how far a thank-you may go in a person's life and what a big difference that could mean.

NATIONAL SECURITY, HEALTH, AND SAFETY

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the last few months have been a rather frustrating time for many of us in Congress as well as the American people.

We first broke for some 7 weeks—the longest break from Congress in the modern era. We left without doing anything on Zika, without addressing our opioid epidemic in this country, and without doing anything for the families of Flint who have been suffering with their water for many years now.

Probably one of the most striking moments I have had as a Member here for the last year and a half was when the families from Flint came in front of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee—the committee on which I serve—and talked about how they have been affected by this water crisis.

What response have they gotten so far from Congress, from the people's House?

Nothing. Zero. Instead, we went off for 7 weeks.

Now here we are about to break again without addressing Flint, without doing anything about the Zika crisis and the other challenges we are fac-

ing, not to mention our gun violence problem that many of us gathered right here on the House floor to address. It is time that we act now, and we should not break until we have addressed these problems.

TRUST IN MEDIA FALLS TO HISTORIC LOWS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans' trust in the media has hit a historic low, according to a recent Gallup poll. Gallup found that only 32 percent of Americans have a great deal or even fair amount of confidence in the media to present the news fully, accurately, and fairly. This represents an 8 point drop from just a year ago. It also is the lowest level of trust in the media that Gallup has ever recorded since it first asked the question 46 years ago.

Republicans' trust in media has dropped from 32 percent a year ago to 14 percent today. This is "easily the lowest confidence among Republicans in 20 years," says Gallup. Trust in the media among Democrats and Independents fell as well.

The historic distrust of the media will continue until the media stops telling Americans what to think.

ERADICATING BREAST CANCER

(Mr. BLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1197, the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act.

I lost my father to cancer when he was just 52 years old, so finding cures for all types of cancer is personal for me. In Iowa alone, there will be approximately 2,200 new cases of breast cancer this year, resulting in about 400 unnecessary deaths. We must do more to cure this disease.

By passing this bill and setting a goal of eradicating breast cancer by 2020, we have a chance to make a real difference for women and their families.

I would also like to recognize my constituents, Christine Carpenter and Lori Seawel, for their selfless volunteer efforts to support this issue.

I encourage my colleagues in the House to support and pass this bipartisan legislation.

PEDIATRIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of September as Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month.

Pediatric cancer is the leading cause of disease-related deaths for children in the United States—43 are diagnosed with cancer every day.

While many adult cancers can be diagnosed early, pediatric cancers are more difficult to detect. In 80 percent of children, the cancer will have already spread to other parts of the body by the time of diagnosis.

For the children who do survive, their battle doesn't end. Ninety-five percent of childhood cancer survivors will develop chronic health conditions. Despite these facts, only 4 percent of the National Cancer Institute's funding goes toward pediatric cancer. Since 1990, only 10 drugs have been developed to treat pediatric cancer, compared to over 200 for adults.

My friend, Jonny Wade, is one of the many faces of pediatric cancer. Last Christmas Eve, his year-long battle with brain cancer tragically ended, but our fight to eradicate this disease has only begun.

Mr. Speaker, his parents, John and Kimberly Wade, sat in the gallery right in front of me when the President talked about his moonshot to eradicate cancer.

Mr. Speaker, 4 percent is not enough. I will continue to fight to get more than 4 percent, not for Jonny, but for his wish that no other kid should have cancer.

MATT AND SHERYL MOHR: ANGELS IN ADOPTION

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a remarkable couple, Matt and Sheryl Mohr from Hudson, as Angels in Adoption from Michigan's Seventh Congressional District.

I had the privilege of visiting with Matt and Sheryl yesterday, and their love and compassion for vulnerable children is truly moving. In the past 6 years, the Mohrs have opened their hearts and home to 26 foster children. Along with their five biological children, they have also adopted five children and are in the process of adopting two more. That will make a total of 12 children.

When asked what led them to begin fostering and adopting, Sheryl said: "I felt that I had a lot more love to give away."

Wow. Through their big hearts and unconditional love, Matt and Sheryl have forever changed the lives of so many children in Lenawee County. They are angels to the children they parent and incredibly deserving of this award.

PROHIBITING RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)